



CHS116 Manage individuals with leg ulcers

OVERVIEW

This standard is about the management of individuals, both adults and children, who suffer with leg ulceration and associated conditions

This treatment may take place within primary or secondary care settings.

Performance of this standard will include continuous assessment of the status of ulceration and taking relevant action to help the individual to manage the condition, or referral for other specialist support.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. the function, adverse effects, contra-indications and interaction problems associated with commonly prescribed medication
2. procedures and protocols associated with the treatment of leg ulcers
3. the factors that determine when additional or alternative medications would be required and prescribed
4. basic pharmacology and its application to dermatological conditions
5. methods for application of emollients and topical treatments
6. the factors that influence the choice of dressing for treatment of leg ulcers
7. how to assist individuals to adjust to taking and applying medications or compression bandaging
8. methods of monitoring treatment for specific dermatological conditions
9. advice and guidance that may be offered to individuals regarding life style changes while receiving treatment for leg ulcers
10. the importance of compliance and individual awareness of the long term nature of his/her medication regime
11. the sources of support, advice and information which may prove helpful to individuals

12. the criteria for referral of individuals for additional assessment or change of medication
13. the pathophysiology of common dermatological conditions
14. the relevance of microbiology, immunology and the epidemiology of infection in dermatological care
15. the mechanics of transmission of infection and the implications of infection for individuals, their families and carers
16. the systemic conditions that may initially present as a dermatological condition
17. statutory requirements relating to prescription
18. your own role, responsibilities, limitations, level of competence and authority in relation to the management of individual's with leg ulcers
19. the use, application, limitations and risks associated with compression systems for management of leg ulcers

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

1. apply standard precautions for infection control and other health and safety measures including use of relevant protective equipment
2. obtain, or review all existing information including individual history, assessment, previous test results, previous injuries, and source of referral
3. explain the process, procedure, potential side effects and need for adherence to treatment to the individual and confirm their understanding
4. respond to the concerns and perceptions of individuals and carers regarding the use and application of treatments
5. identify the cause of ulceration and signs of arterial or venous disease and other atypical ulcer presentations or malignancy
6. assess the location and measurements of the ulcer, the nature of the wound bed and peri ulcer skin to ensure effective dressing selection and skincare plan
7. assess and manage pain and discomfort, including referral to appropriate agency
8. refer non-venous ulcers for appropriate management
9. identify any abnormalities of the surrounding skin, treat any obvious infection and manage appropriately
10. take appropriate action to ensure effective management of underlying aetiology
11. decide on the most suitable compression system
12. arrange for hosiery to be fitted in cases of healed venous leg ulcers
13. plan further treatment and make necessary arrangements with individual and relevant health care professions for long term care
14. provide the individual and their carer(s), with correct information and education to assist with management of their condition, including prevention of ulceration or relapse

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health.

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments